



Hawaii VFC News

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

"Hawaii VFC News" is a quarterly publication distributed to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers. Its purpose is to address VFC-related issues, provide general immunization information, and keep you up-to-date with the latest program changes.

Inside this Issue

- Measles Outbreaks Continue Abroad
- Training & Education Opportunity
- CDC IZ Learn Twitter Feed
- VFC Eligibility Requirements
- Have You HIR'd?
- Talk to the Doc: Hib Vaccines
- Who You Gonna Call?
- VIS Binders
- VFC Reminder

Measles Outbreaks Continue Abroad; Provides Impetus for Awareness at Home.

Since January, a total of 580 confirmed measles cases, including two in Hawaii, have been reported to CDC, surpassing the highest reported yearly total of measles cases since the elimination of the disease in the U.S.

Measles outbreaks continue to occur in the Philippines, Federated States of Micronesia, and on the mainland. For more information on measles cases and outbreaks, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>.

Providers are asked to keep a heightened awareness of the potential for measles in our communities and to continue to provide timely vaccinations to patients to prevent disease.

Less is More:

VFC Aims for Less Waste, More Efficiency



Over the last few years, the Immunization Branch has been boosting efforts to become more environmentally conscious and efficient in our business practices. Some outcomes, like scanning and e-filing documents, affect only the Immunization Branch. Others also affect VFC providers. The aim is to reduce waste while increasing accountability and efficiency.

There are multiple ways by which we are striving to accomplish this, including the following:

- Screening patients at every visit ensures that vaccines are not used inappropriately (pg. 1).
- Paper VAVRs may be discontinued for providers who perform direct data entry or data exchange of vaccination administration information into the HIR (pg. 2).
- New VIS binders prevent unnecessary bulk printing and unused materials (also pg. 2).
- VFC vaccine ordering and inventory performed electronically reduces paperwork and processing time (pg. 2).

Cumulatively, all of these efforts result in big impact. Thanks to all of the VFC Providers for taking part in the progression forward.

Training & Education Opportunity

View the Immunization Action Coalition webinar, "If Vaccines Don't Cause Autism, What Does?" This session explores the most recent science on the causes of autism so that health care providers can respond to vaccine-hesitant families with the facts.

<http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=halqrd>

The CDC Twitter feed, @CDCizlearn, offers updates on immunization training, news about vaccine storage and handling, links to revised schedules, vaccine information statements, and more. Check it out. <https://twitter.com/CDCIZLearn>



VFC Eligibility Requirements: Check Every Patient, Every Time

One of the requirements to administer VFC vaccines is to perform eligibility screening before each vaccination visit. It is important to screen patients for ALL VFC requirements since patient eligibility may change due to insurance status or age.

VFC eligibility requirements

- Birth through 18 years old
- Medicaid eligible
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Uninsured
- Underinsured (Federally Qualified Health Centers only)

Although the majority of your patients may fall under a single category, you must screen for VFC eligibility before each vaccination visit. Proper screening will ensure that only VFC-eligible patients receive VFC vaccine, in accordance with the law. For questions regarding VFC eligibility screening, call 586-8300 or 1-800-933-4832.

Have you HIR'd that HIR can help VFC providers "go green" ?

Yes! Paper VAVRs may be discontinued for providers that directly enter VFC vaccine administration data into HIR or submit the data via electronic data exchange from their Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. **Data quality checks will be performed by the Immunization Branch prior to approval. It is critical that all VFC vaccine administration data be timely, accurate and complete.** If you would like information about recording VFC vaccine administration in HIR, please contact the HIR help desk at 586-4665 (Oahu), 1-888-447-1023 (Neighbor Islands) or registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov.



Who You Gonna Call?



Example HIR Help Desk Questions:

- ◆ How do I access HIR?
- ◆ I can't log-in. I forgot my password. Can you help me?
- ◆ How do I record/submit inventory?
- ◆ How do I order VFC vaccine?

Phone: 586-4665 (Oahu)
1-888-447-1023 (Neighbor Islands)

E-mail: registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov

Example VFC Vaccine Inventory/Order Questions:

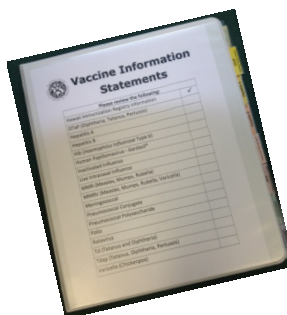
- ◆ Why was my order/vaccine line item reduced or denied?
- ◆ I forgot to place an order for this vaccine. Can I submit another order?
- ◆ Is this vaccine available?

Phone: 586-8300 (Oahu)
1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands)

E-mail: hawaiiivfc@doh.hawaii.gov

Vaccine Information Statement Binder

In an effort to decrease printing and postage costs due to budget constraints, the Hawaii VFC Program will no longer



provide individual copies of the Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) to VFC providers. Instead, a binder of the VISs for the 17 vaccines distributed through the Hawaii VFC program will be given to each provider. Several copies of each VIS and a master printed on white paper for making additional copies, will be included in each binder.

The cover of the VIS binder has a checklist of all of the vaccines. Providers are encouraged to use a dry-erase marker or grease pencil to indicate which vaccines the patient will receive that day. The parents/guardians of the patient can then flip through the binder to read the appropriate VISs. Copies of each VIS will be included in the binder for parents/guardians requesting to take one home. Also, VISs are available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html> Providers may text or e-mail this link to the VISs as appropriate.

TALK TO THE DOC

Are the schedules for ActHIB® and PedvaxHIB® the same?

No. ActHIB® is licensed as a 3-dose primary series for infants at ages 2, 4, and 6 months, with a booster dose (dose 4) at age 12 – 15 months.



PedvaxHIB® is licensed as a 2-dose primary series for infants at ages 2 and 4 months, with a booster dose (dose 3) at age 12 – 15 months. **A dose of PedvaxHIB® at age 6 months is not indicated.**

If an infant receives different products of Hib vaccine at ages 2 and 4 months (e.g., one dose of ActHIB® and one dose of PedvaxHIB®), then the child should receive a third primary dose of either Hib vaccine at age 6 months and a booster dose at age 12 – 15 months. The 2-dose primary schedule (e.g., doses at age 2 and 4 months) is only appropriate when both doses are PedvaxHIB®.

VFC Reminder: DO NOT return expired, spoiled, or wasted vaccines to the Immunization Branch

To return/dispose of VFC vaccine:

- 1) Complete and submit a "Hawaii Immunization Branch Vaccine Loss Reporting Form."
- 2) Spoiled/Wasted Vaccines: Dispose of spoiled or wasted vaccine appropriately on your own.

Expired Vaccines: Wait for a McKesson return label to be mailed to you. Ship expired vaccines to McKesson using the return label provided. (Exception: Expired vaccines provided in multi-dose vials should be disposed of by the provider.)



Ronald G. Balajadia, MS
Immunization Branch Chief

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION BRANCH
VFC PROGRAM

Danielle Vassalotti
Editor

Telephone: (808) 586-8300 / Fax: (808) 586-8302
Toll Free # for Neighbor Islands: 1-800-933-4832

Contributors

- Lynn Bryan, HIR Trainer
- Juliet Jumila, Statistics Clerk
- Noel Jose, RN, Field Reviewer
- Justin Lam, RN, Field Reviewer
- Marcia M. Nagao, MD, MPH, Pediatrician
- Heather Winfield-Smith, Epidemiological Specialist